

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~receptacle-socket~~ comprising:
an ~~insulative~~-insulating socket housing having an opening part through which a plug having dual in-line male contacts is inserted;
female contacts which are arrayed in parallel on a pair of opposing inner walls ~~opposed to each other~~ of the opening part and come into contact with the male contacts when the plug is inserted into the opening part;
an ~~insulative~~-insulating shutter which closes a front face of the opening part when the plug is removed and retracts towards a rear face of the opening part by being pushed by the plug when the plug is inserted for protecting the female contacts from dust; and
a shell covering the socket housing; wherein
the shutter is formed of a substantially flat board-like element disposed approximately perpendicular to the direction of the plug insertion; and wherein
the shell comprises a pair of members formed on a pair of opposing edges a member for partially covering the front face of the opening part and for preventing the shutter from coming out from the socket housing.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~receptacle-socket~~ according to claim 1, wherein the shutter is provided with an elastic member for moving the shutter towards the front face of the opening part when the plug is removed from the opening part.
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~receptacle-socket~~ according to claim 1, wherein legs of the female contacts is extended from the socket housing so as to be fixed-fixable on a printed circuit board.
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~receptacle-socket~~ according to claim 2, wherein legs of the female contacts is extended from the socket housing so as to be fixed-fixable on a printed circuit board.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The receptacle socket~~ according to any one of claims 1 to 4 further comprising: ~~a shell for covering the socket housing; and a pair of soldering tabs for fixing the socket housing onto the printed-circuit board disposed on side parts of the shell.~~

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An interface connector of a miniature electronic device comprising the ~~The receptacle socket~~ according to any one of claims 1 to 4 ~~to be used as an interface connector of a miniature electronic device.~~

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The receptacle socket~~ according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the female contacts are arrayed in parallel at regular intervals of 0.5 mm.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting a plug to the ~~receptacle socket~~ according to any one of claims 1 to 4, the plug comprising:
an ~~insulative~~ insulating plug housing having a frame part and a header part which is formed integrally with the frame part and is protruded from the frame part to be inserted into the ~~receptacle socket~~;

male contacts arrayed in parallel and ~~pairs on a pair of outer walls~~ on the header part; and

a plug shutter which covers the male contacts arrayed on the header part and can be stored in the frame part, ~~and the method comprising:~~

moving the plug shutter towards the rear face of the opening part along inner walls of the opening part when the plug is inserted into the opening part of the ~~receptacle socket~~; and

moving the plug shutter towards the front face of the opening part along the inner walls of the opening part when the plug is removed from the ~~receptacle socket~~.

11. (Canceled)